

THE JEWISH TIMES: SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Newmark, have left this city for Europe, where they propose tarrying for several years. Many of their intimate friends paid them a farewell call last Monday night at their residence 1324 Tyler street.

Mrs. CHARLOTTE FROOMBERG, gave a reception to her numerous friends at the residence of her parents, 326 Tyler St., last Sunday evening. The parlors were crowded, and dancing, singing and recitations was the order of the evening.

THE MERRY-MAKERS gave their second entertainment at Saratoga Hall, Wednesday evening, in presence of a very large audience. The following programme was excellently carried out, each number in the first part calling forth repeated encores: Part I.—Recitation, Mr. M. L. Tichner; favorite motto songs, Mrs. A. F. Cordes; recitation, Miss Ada Pierce; musical mélange, Mr. Frank Bean; recitation, Mr. Charles Hirsch; serio-comic songs, little Elsie Loane. Part II.—"The Merry-Makers" in the delightful comedy, entitled *The Young Widow*, with the following cast of characters: Mandeville, Mr. Theo. Steiner; Splash, Mr. Chas. Hirsch; Atrelia, Mrs. E. C. Sanction; Lucy, Miss Edith Woodthorpe.

A dance followed under the management of the following gentlemen: Floor Manager, R. Meiners, Jr.; Floor Committee, M. S. Kohlberg, W. H. Corbridge, A. Steiner, A. P. Forbes, B. Hirsch.

Our Yachting Experience.

It was a glorious day, a wonderfully bright one, after the stormy weather of the preceding week, and the forty-five pairs of eyes that awakened to the fact of a fair Sunday on the 9th inst., and the prospect of a jolly day and cruising on the bay had their brightest anticipations realized. The sunny smiles on the faces of the fair ones assembled on Mission Wharf waiting to embark was but the reflex of the glorious sun. There was unalloyed happiness in the friendly greeting which encountered each new comer, the occasional laugh, the shriek of the steam from the 'scape pipe of the tug "Hercules," whose whistle was manipulated by a novice, all added to the jollity of the occasion. Then "aboard" was the cry and a miniature "Niagara leap," being made from the wharf to the deck of the tug, freed from her moorings, and "Hercules" was tearing through the waters, with her passengers and freight (lunch baskets), at a prettily lively rate of speed with Alcatraz as our objective point.

Having reached there without loss of life or sea-sickness we proceeded to see the sights. Did you, Mr. Editor, ever visit Alcatraz? No, well don't. We did, and I assure you the labor of climbing 937 steps is not repaid, barring a few rose bushes, some cannon and a badly constructed walk, there is little to see. The officers are good looking but not strikingly handsome, and the poor prisoners are a pitiable sight. Still, the party being large, friendly and fresh, and none save the writer, (who was unfortunately for himself, born tired) murmured.

Again on board, we steamed up the bay into the muddy waters of the Sacramento river, and reaching Martinez took leave of the tug and crossing railroad tracks and fences made for the woods where, by the side of a gurgling creek, surrounded by picturesque cows, and poisoned oak, we proceeded to discuss the contents of many baskets, to the entire satisfaction of the inner man. Probably one of the jolliest sights in the world, is a party of hungry picnickers in the woods—at dinner time—there is only one thing jollier, to be one of the party yourself. There was a most sumptuous meal, for many of the young ladies are excellent cooks and have special lines to which they lay claim. Everything was in the greatest profusion, and everybody seemed to eat everything, and it is to be marveled at that no one was sick on the way home. I know of one young man, who after partaking of a half chicken, some cold tongue, and chicken salad, stowed away without apparent discomfort three slices of Miss L's jelly cake, a dish of Miss R's jelly, four of Miss S's butter cookies, an orange, a banana and a bun, and when refused more said he was starving—and after finishing our meal we climbed to a great altitude and took a bird's eye view of the entire country, a perfect panorama of landscape, glade and brake. A general race down the hill in school-boy fashion and we were again on the waters. We had a singer on board, a young lady with the voice of an angel. We had an actor on board (an amateur) with the fire of a Roman, and we had also an artist on board (heaven save the mark) without the talents of a Raphael, and between them all time hung not, and San Francisco was reached before we were aware.

ONE OF THE PARTY.

All the eleven theatres of Chicago now have performance on Sundays,

Communications.

MR. EDITOR.—Doubtless you will publish in your columns a full and exhaustive account of the Confirmation Services at the various Synagogues. Whilst admiring and giving every credit to our Rabbis, for the care which had evidently been bestowed upon the communicants, I must animadvert upon the terrible strain the nerves of the children were subjected to. The trying ordeal of such an eloquentation exhibition, and the want of nourishment for so long a period, as that in which the service took place, was doubtlessly experienced by them. Cannot the questions be curtailed, and the flowery rhetoric which the various pastors indulged in be plain, lucid, short, and not so affecting. I doubt very much, if in a month's time, some of the young people were again questioned without any previous intimation, they could repeat the performance they went through on Sunday last! Too much praise cannot be meted to these bright children; but it would have pleased me much, to have heard a greater portion of the service, rendered in Hebrew, and thus evince to the Congregations, that the study of the language of Judaism, had been carefully attended to. To a stranger entering into the Temple, whilst some part of the services were being celebrated, I am sure that unless they took a glance at the facial characteristics of the assemblage, they would imagine they were in a Christian Church. I felt tempted to call for an encore both of the Violin Solo and the prayer for "Our Country." Considering we are Jews, I think that the prayer would have been more appropriate, had God been implored, not only upon behalf of the people over whom the folds of the Star Spangled Banner wave, but also for all Israel. Evidently the composer of the effusion, did not remember the Almighty's promise, "Wheresoever ye be gathered in my name I will be amongst you and bless you."

I trust that the services in future will be such as not to weary, and that the Preachers will bear in mind the trite remark, "Short and Sweet," then I feel assured that the general result will be more acceptable to the listeners.

VERITAS.

DEAR MR. EDITOR: The publication of the valuable Essay of Mr. D. B. Marx in your last issue, has prompted me to ask your insertion of the few thoughts which suggested themselves to me upon perusal of the same.

The present state of religious feeling among our Jewish community, not only in this city, but also throughout the length and breadth of the United States, is to be deeply regretted by all men who still delight to be called Jews, and members of the Chosen Race. When we look upon the vast strides our brethren have made, alone in this country where they possess equal privileges with all other sects but in States, where until within the last few years, to bear the name of Hebrew, was accounted a subject of derision and mockery; strides not only in mercantile pursuits, but in those especial callings of life which Jews were supposed to be incapable of compassing, viz.: in diplomacy, music, medicine and various kindred arts and sciences. Surely our hearts must thrill with pride and exultation at the advancement and efforts of our worthy co-religionists to place the descendants of the House of Israel in the foremost ranks of the world.

But I would ask what effect have these triumphs or feelings engendered thereby, had upon our holy religion? It is all very well for a man or woman to say, I am a Jew! of that assurance, no stranger will doubt. It is one of the Almighty's inscrutable dictates that each and every member of the Hebrew race should bear visible and marked characteristics. The question is this: Are you a Jew at heart? Do you still "cherish" love and veneration for the ancient religion whose precepts your fathers instilled into your minds? I emphatically reply, the answer would be an equivocating one. The custom of the day among our young Jewish men and women, is in a marked degree, to ignore the religious observances of their faith. They in a measure sneer at the ceremonies of our ritual, chafe at the restraint placed upon them on the few holy days, they may probably observe and cavil at the restrictions placed on their pleasures upon such festivals of which indifference, I have, I am sorry to say, been an observer during the late holidays. To what cause can we look for this gradual and visible decay of the observances of Judaism? Is it because our merchants possess in a greater degree, a desire to amass wealth than our forefathers did, or is it that the congregations do not support our synagogues and charitable institutions? We have manifest contradictions to the contrary. Witness the steadily fabrics in our midst dedicated to the service of our Heavenly Father. Look at our orphan asylums, our schools for Jewish youth, and the support to the various adjuncts of our faith. No, these are not the reasons. Far be it for me to lay down any rules for the guidance of the men who, by untiring energy, have made their names known all over the world as merchant princes, and whose capacity for business render the Jews renowned in those particular avocations. But what I do say is this: There exists no reason why the Jewish merchants of this city should not promote the proper observance of the Sabbath and holidays. Of course I am aware of the objections that would be raised to such a course. But let me say, that in the great city of London, the houses of the "Rothschilds," the "Mocattas," the "Goldsmiths" and others, too numerous to mention; in the cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Hong Kong and Shanghai, the establishments of the great Sassoons and all the Jewish mercantile firms are closed upon the Jewish Sabbath. What effect these observances have had upon the mercantile world, may be judged by the fact that in London the Settling Day for exchange was changed from Saturday to Thursday, and at the special request of the Messrs. Sassoons the departure of the Indian Mails was deferred from Saturday to Monday, to enable our Indian co-religionists to keep the Sabbath

holier. Were some of our prominent Hebrew citizens to step forward and place themselves in the van, boldly proving that by attention to their religious duties, they wish to assert their convictions, then I say, others would follow their example, and thus in a great measure arrest by their actions, the spirit of infidelity now abroad.

Turning now to the points upon which I feel the deepest interest, namely: the extinction of the spirit of reverence, those feelings of the heart, and the promptings engendered thereby, those inspirations of awe and devotion which ought to attend our divine worship, the observance of the fundamental ceremonial of our faith, amongst our Jewish young men and women. These facts are all impressed upon me as the reason why our glorious religion is neglected. Attendance at the Synagogues is marked by their absence, the congregation being composed mainly of females. The absence of young men is to be deplored. Ask them the reason, they reply—"We have no business to attend to—We have other pursuits!" They have no heart in the services! They lack faith, and where there is no faith there can be no religion, no love and no feelings that are necessary to make them Jews. It would be inviolate for me to particularize and specialize points, upon which I could enlarge.

These evils have their remedies. Through our Rabbis by renewed exertions in the exercise of their religious duties, not merely by the services conducted by them in the Synagogues, but by visiting the community, impressing upon them their duties necessary to a strict observance of the Israelitish faith, and the inculcation to their families, of the tenets of our divine religion as handed down to us by our forefathers.

Through our young men and women in whose-minds the history of our nation, the trials and persecutions, it has undergone, not only in the middle ages, but even in these progressive times, should be ever present. Keeping in remembrance, the wrongs and oppressions suffered by our ancestors for the sake of that God, whose divine precepts have made us a nation, precepts both moral, social and sanitary—which have been the basis of every modern sect, and still form the admiration of all people. By the dissemination of thought, by an interchange of ideas and conclusions, and by the cultivation of those talents which they assuredly possess in a marked pre-eminence above all others. It may be thought that, I as a Jew; am somewhat prejudiced in favor of my race, but I am not. My pursuits have led me for a number of years, far from the companionship of Hebrews, but I cannot shut my eyes to the fact that the annals of the present century plainly show to the nations that they count amongst their politicians diplomats, scholars, artists and financiers, men who are Jews. It is to these facts, that the now tolerant laws, and advanced ideas of the various countries, in which our lots are cast is due. The world sees that the old race is again asserting its superiority, but whilst its civil position has improved, their religion is declining. It is to this point that I would especially call the attention of our young Jews. To them is entrusted the charge, to not allow our beloved worship to wane, to strive by a mighty impulse, to free our people from the imputations of infidelity, that are now charged against it.

To endeavor to cultivate the language, in which the "Decalogue" was thundered from Sinai," a language which for sublime and poetical force is unequalled, and a knowledge of which, is absolutely requisite to any person professing or calling themselves Jews. To the now flourishing society, the Y. M. H. A., I look in a great measure for the revival of the interest which I trust, may in the future again place the Jewish religion in this city upon a firm and solid footing. A religion whose observances shall be such, as to make the world say in admiration, "See how these Jews conform to their religion, having no schisms, or dogmatic differences, such as exist amongst us."

Let it be remembered that I am no advocate for a return to the old style of service in our temples, but the ritual must be assimilated to the progress made in an educational point of view by our youth, always keeping in mind that the innovations made; shall in no way clash with the strict and proper observance of Judaism. By these means and the remedies suggested, I believe that the present dormant feelings of the Jews can be aroused.

I am, Dear Sir,

PHILIP JUDEA.

An Appeal for our Orphan Asylum.

Copies of the following circular were distributed in the various synagogues of this city, last Sunday, and attention called to the same by the respective Rabbis:

Office of the Pacific Hebrew Orphan Asylum and Home Society, San Francisco, May, 1880.

DEAR SIR AND MADAM:—The Board of Trustees of the above-named Society, appreciating the fact that the limited resources derived from dues of members' must soon fail to meet the constantly increasing expenditures made necessary by the large number of Orphans already admitted, deem it expedient to issue this appeal to our co-religionists throughout the Pacific Coast, urging them to enroll themselves as members of this Society, in order to enable the Trustees not only to provide a suitable home, and with it the requisite means for the education and proper training of the Orphans now inmates of the Asylum, but also to such others that may hereafter be compelled to claim our protection, which alone can enable the Trustees to meet future demands and make the institution self-supporting. We deem it a most deplorable fact, and one utterly at variance with the presumably generous dispensation of charity, so characteristic of our race all over the civilized world, that out of a resident Jewish population of about 30,000 on this coast, not exceeding 1,600 have thus far manifested the willingness to contribute toward the support of

the Falk difficulty in this Order arose from the refusal of the Endowment Committee to pay over to the widow of Bro. Falk, deceased, the amount of \$1,000 due her, and on suit being brought by her, the amount and costs were paid and harmony restored.

This Organization was formerly a component part of the Independent Order of Free Sons of Israel, which has now three

an Asylum, though organized more than nine years. We would especially impress upon our co-religionists that membership is not restricted to adult males, but is open to all irrespective of sex or age, and that ladies and children are cordially invited to enroll.

There certainly is nothing in the guise of charity that appeals more strongly to our sympathies than the relief of orphans who, through no fault of theirs, are compelled to seek our protection, and as the Asylum ardent Home has been established for the benefit of Jewish orphans from all parts of the Pacific Coast, it is but proper that our appeal in their behalf meet with a prompt, hearty and general response. Nor should your zeal in our cause cease after enrolling yourself as a member, but let it be your pride and duty to secure affiliation from every Israelite within your reach and influence, since, with the increase of revenue, which must ensue from such sympathetic co-operation, you will have the advent of the day when we can throw open the portals of a Home for the admission of destitute aged and infirm Israelites, under whose sheltering roof will be dispensed the comforts and care which loving solicitude can bestow. If we fail to secure a further fixed and steady income derivable from the increase of membership, the full usefulness of our Society in respect to the Home will be retarded. In view of the foregoing facts, we earnestly entreat you to send in your application to any member of the Board of Trustees, or to the Secretary, Mr. Leo Eloesser, 414 Clay Street. Very Respectfully, S. W. Levy, President; Louis Sachs, Vice President, Committee; Alfred P. Elfelt, Chairman, I. F. Bloch, Martin Heller, Louis Gerstle, Jacob Greenebaum.

Joseph Seligman's Charity.

NEW YORK, May 19.—The Tribune says: Joseph Seligman's bequests for charitable purposes is characterized by liberality and tolerance which he displayed during his lifetime. He gives \$5000 to the Society for Ethical Culture, of which he was President, and \$25,000 to be distributed by his executors among such charitable, benevolent and educational institutions as they shall think best, "without regard to creed, race or religion."

Betrothed.

HAAS—GREENBAUM.—Williams Haas to Bertha Greenbaum, both of this city.

SWARTS—LASH.—E. L. Swarts of Cincinnati, O., to Lizzie Lash of this city.

Fraternal Societies.

As it is intended to make this column of general interest, communications upon subjects contained therein will be gladly received and impartially treated.

I. O. F. S. I.

We have received a copy of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of this Order for 79-80, and find the following of note:

There are under its jurisdiction forty-four Lodges with 2,849 members, five Ladies' Lodges with 400 members, and one Junior Lodge for young men between 16 and 20 years of age, with 36 members. They paid out in the sums of \$1,000 each, \$33,000 to the representatives of deceased members during the past year, and \$5,696.52 as benefits and relief. The sum total of funds on hand amount to \$26,492.81. There are 26 Lodges in Pennsylvania, the rest are scattered about in Missouri, Michigan, Virginia, Maryland, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, West Virginia, Arkansas, South Carolina, Illinois and Louisiana, and are equally divided as far as the use of the German and English languages is concerned. They last met in Philadelphia, Pa., and will meet next year in New York.

The Executive Committee attributes "the slow progress of the Order" to the "general stagnation of business," but expresses the hope of a brighter future for the Order.

The retiring Grand Master read a short valedictory address, and states, among other items of interest: that the Order is managed in a more economical manner than any other of the kindred institutions in existence, and prays that the motto of the Order: "Progress and Humanity" may become the watchword of every good Israelite.

He decides: That a President can preside while under charges, excepting on his own case, being otherwise the *de facto* President.

A Treasurer can act as such while under charges, until they are investigated and determined, provided they are not for malfeasance in office.

The Past President of a sister lodge is not qualified to be elected president in another than his own lodge.

The retiring Grand Master, Sig. Hofheimer, was presented with Engrossed Resolutions.

Bro. Alex. Reinstine was elected Grand Master.

Contributions for the Endowment Fund having proved inadequate, the per capita tax to the Grand Lodge was raised from 35 to 40 cents per annum.

A committee was appointed to frame laws for the establishment of District Grand Lodges.

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flourishing Lodges on this Coast, and bids fair to keep the Improved Order from our shores.

Foreign.

Russia.
In the general proscription of the Jews from St. Petersburg, a citizen of the United States is numbered among the many.

DR. SUSANNA RUBINSTEIN.—The number of learned Jewesses who in poetry, art and science have contributed to the world of knowledge, has been recently increased by Dr. Susanna Rubinstein of Czernowitz. Only last year the daughter of a Swedish rabbi received the degree of Doctor of Medicine, and her success has now been surpassed by the daughter of Isaac Rubinstein, a member of Parliament from Czernowitz. She early displayed high mental endowments, and showed a special fondness for study. After completing her gymnasial studies, she attended the Prague University, and became a favorite pupil of Professor Volkmann, displaying much philosophical acumen. In 1875, she published her first dissertation on "The Sensorial and sensitive Senses," which gained her the doctor's degree from Prague, the first time that honour has been conferred on a German woman. In 1878, she published "Psychological Aesthetic Essays," written in brilliant, incisive style, with marked originality. She is about thirty years of age, unmarried, and to judge from her portrait, as published in the Leipzig "German Illustrated Paper," is a lady of much personal grace and beauty.—*Jewish Chronicle*.

Holland.

THE JEWS of Sneek are re-building their ancient synagogue. The King donated 1,000 guilders to that purpose. The KING has appointed Mr. S. Asser, an Israelite, Member and Secretary-General of the Commission on the codification of the laws of Holland.

England.

LONDON.—Dr. Leopold Seligmann has been lecturing on the trilogy, or three plays, "Leah," "Macbeth," and "Hamlet," to large and appreciative audiences. The principal characters of each play were analysed in the style of the German philosophical school, and the great psychological knowledge displayed by Shakespeare in all his compositions was illustrated by German criticism. The third lecture on "Hamlet" was the most profound in all and the most philosophical in its criticism.

THE TRAINING OF JEWISH MINISTERS.—The West London Synagogue of British Jews, have for some weeks announced that applications are invited for the stipend granted out of the Ministers' Training Fund of the congregation. According to the rules, every candidate must be at least 17 years of age, and have matriculated (or shall matriculate within six months) at a University of the United Kingdom. On selection by the Council of the West London Synagogue of British Jews (in whom the appointment is vested), he shall enjoy the stipend of £100 a year for the purpose of training as a Jewish Minister for the period of three years or longer, if the Council shall so determine. He shall proceed, without delay, to one of the Universities of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, to be decided on by the Council, and shall remain there, if the Council shall require him to do so, for the period necessary to obtain the Bachelor's Degree in Arts and Laws. He shall also, during his curriculum at such University, pursue his Hebrew and religious studies. On attaining one or other of these degrees, or within a reasonable time thereafter, he shall proceed to one of the Jewish Theological Seminaries in Germany or elsewhere, to be selected by such Council, in order to obtain instruction in Jewish Theology, and shall remain there for the period of two years or longer, as the Council shall so determine.

He shall then

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San Francisco, Friday, May 21, 1880.

Pacific Coast.

CITY.
The names of sixty were on the Police Court calendar on Monday, arrested for drunkenness.

The banking house of Gansel & Culen, Rothschild's agents, is being closed. Reason: want of paying business.

The corner-stone of the Golden Gate Woolen Mills, corner of Twentieth and Bryant streets, was laid yesterday.

A bill appropriating \$200,000 for a new Postoffice for San Francisco has been introduced in Congress, with good prospects for its passage.

Three times J. C. Duncan has been tried for embezzlement, and three times the jury have disagreed. Yesterday they stood the same as upon the first trial—eight for conviction and four for acquittal.

The Police Judge held court on Monday from 9 o'clock in the morning until noon. Then again from two o'clock in the afternoon until a quarter to 6 o'clock; and then from 7 o'clock at night until 1 o'clock the next morning.

The Board of Education did well at their meeting on Monday, in passing a resolution making void the contracts for building of three new school houses. The figure was too high—\$2,800 per classroom is too much for these hard times.

Judge T. K. Wilson has been elected Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, vice William P. Daingerfield, deceased. Department No. 3, recently presided over by Judge Wilson, was assigned to the newly-appointed Judge, L. D. Latimer.

The Boys and Girls' Aid Society wish to give the children belonging to their organization a day's recreation in the country, but do not feel that they have a right to appropriate money contributed for the general support of the Society for such a purpose. They therefore invite special contributions from those who would like to aid in gladdening the hearts of the little ones who seldom get a glimpse of the country. The poor children in the crowded Eastern cities are given such a treat every summer, greatly to their benefit. Contributions may be sent to the Secretary, C. A. Murdock, 532 Clay street.

A mass meeting of bakers was held Saturday evening. The purpose of the meeting was to perfect measures to keep up the legal contest for their day of rest provided for in a law adopted by the late Legislature. A motion that the bakers meet every Saturday night until a decision be obtained from the Supreme Court on appeal concerning the constitutionality of the law, was adopted. The Secretary was instructed to have any one arrested found driving a bakery wagon in the street on Sunday.

Another meeting of the Board of Supervisors of this city has been held, and the water rates are not fixed yet; but instead two new orders have been passed to print, either of which would make the rates higher than at present. This does not look like an honest effort to deal fairly with this question. We were promised that the rates should be reduced 25 per cent. We believe that promise should be kept; that the rates should be reduced even much more than that. We do not believe it is a difficult matter at all to compute the amounts to be paid. Almost any school boy could do it. The Board of Supervisors have other important business on hand, in which we wish them all success; but if they fail to relieve us from the present exorbitant water rates, we shall count them as derelict in duty, and shall not forget it.

STATE.
Vacaville College closed May 12th. Two pupils graduated.

The Vacaville neighborhood will ship 50,000 boxes of apricots this year.

A lady named Mrs. Ford is President of the Lassen county Board of Education. The commencement exercises of the Santa Clara College take place May 31st, and June 1st.

There were snowshoe races at Sierra City last week. A man by the name of Cooper, of Eureka Mills, was the winner.

Anaheim vines are loaded with blossoms—the danger of a frost is over, and the market for California wines is continually improving.

One hundred bath-houses are being built on the beach near the railroad depot at Monterey, and the break-water will be constructed immediately.

The Golden Gate Packing Company of San Jose have just completed their new factory, built of brick. The building is 120x80 in size, with all the equipments necessary for canning. Superintendent Bowman states that they will commence running next week on green peas and gooseberries, which it is thought, can then be procured in sufficient quantity.

A meeting was held in Stockton on Monday to further a project for constructing a narrow-gauge railroad from Stockton to Bodie, there to connect with a projected narrow-gauge system for the State of Nevada. It is announced that Eastern capital will back the scheme.

The city of St. Louis has adopted the Kindergarten as a part of its system of public education; and the plan is said to be proving economic, inasmuch as children who pass through this training are thereby made better able to avail themselves of the advantages of the primary schools.

Ten fin-back whales were taken the past winter in Cape Cod Bay, measuring from 50 to 75 feet long, and each averaging from 25 to 30 barrels of oil, thus bringing about \$200 apiece to their captors.

Some Red River Valley Illusions.

A great many lies have been told about the Red River region—lies proportionate to the size of the country. It may not be out of place here to indicate a few of them. The water of this region is not good. In the rivers it is muddy; in the wells it is alkaline. The mosquitoes are large, vigorous, and active. For them, stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage. They are a burden; and so, in certain seasons, is the grasshopper.

The climate is not mild. In fact, it is sometimes too cold for comfort, in spite of the protection afforded by the isothermal line. There is a strange reluctance on the part of the writers who describe this country to mention the figures marked by the thermometer in winter. The inhabitants also show a consummate skill in avoiding the subject.

"Pretty cold here in winter, eh?"
"Wa'al, ye-es; it's cold—but he's hot!"
"Much snow?"

"Wa'al, no; ye see, it mos'ly blows away."

"How low does the thermometer go?"
"Wa'al, I dunno. Ye see, we live indoors, an' so we keep on'n that."

Another point on which the public has been much deceived is the average yield of wheat. I asked a very intelligent gentleman the other day what he supposed would be a good crop of wheat in the Red River Valley, and he answered, "Perhaps sixty bushels to the acre." In point of fact, forty bushels is an uncommonly fine yield, and the average is not much above twenty bushels. I have before me the returns from two of the divisions of the Dalrymple farms. The figures for the smaller one are as follows: 3338 acres in wheat yield 63,190 bushels; 200 acres in oats yield 7641 bushels; 120 acres in barley yield 2374 bushels.

The price of land in the vicinity of Casselton has rapidly increased. Railroad land is worth from \$10 to \$20 an acre; and there is little of it to be had. There is excellent government land, some miles back from the road, still unclaimed. Living is dear. Fuel is scarce and high. Wood costs \$5.50 a cord, and coal \$10 a ton.

Over against all these disadvantages you may set the simple fact that wheat can be raised here more easily and more profitably than anywhere else in the world. Here is level plain. It does not need clearing, for there are no trees or stones; it does not need fencing, for there are but few cattle; and the herding laws must always afford strict and sufficient protection. All that it is necessary to do is to "break" the prairie sod to a depth of three or four inches in the spring, "backset" it in the fall, and in the following spring sow a bushel and a half of wheat to the acre, and reap twenty bushels at harvest.

Henry J. Van Dyke, Jr., in *Harper's Magazine* for May.

My Bulbs.

"And the dinner, num? It's yourself always looks after it on the wash-day, but I'll be doing my best to please you."

"Yes, indeed," I sighed, trying to lift my head from the pillow, but it throbbed so, I fell back in despair. At that moment I remembered that Henry asked for it about an hour earlier than usual, as he was to take the train, so there was little time to spare.

"And the vegetables, num?"

I remembered that the canned tomatoes were all gone, and no potatoes, and no time to send out, so I told Biddy.

"Mr. Lovejoy is to go on the train, and he wants dinner at two. He is very fond of fried onions; it don't take long to cook them, and there are some small ones in a paper bag on a shelf in the cellar. Pick out the largest, slice thin, and fry them with the steak. Get anything else you can find, Biddy."

As the willing Biddy went clattering off, I remembered with dismay that the smell of the onions would be almost unbearable to me, but I was too ill to ring the bell and call her back; and with my over-sensitive ears and that clairvoyant sense a nervous headache always brings, I knew every step of the progress of that dinner, though I wondered vaguely as I heard the onions frying that they did not sicken me as usual, and was thankful for the respite.

Before dinner was ready, in came Henry. There was a hasty preparation for the inevitable trip, inquiries for my welfare, a very hurried bolting of his dinner when he found the train-time had been changed, a kiss of good-bye, and he was off.

Having recovered during the night, and next day, again interested in life; when my neighbor, Mrs. Ross, called, we got to talking about bulls; and, boasting of my superior ones, I went to the cellar for mine, but behold! all of my beautiful large Gladiolus and Hyacinth bulbs lately purchased, not one was left—only a few refuse bulbs of my own raising were in the bottom of the bag.

Greatly I wondered, until I espied the bag of onions on the same shelf, intact, and asked Biddy about it.

"An' faith, num, I thought it quare when I didn't make my eyes water when I was peelin' 'em, but thought my eyes was a gettin' stronger than they was."

When the whole story had been told to Henry, and after he had recovered from his fit of laughter, he said: "They looked like onions, and I laid their want of taste to my epizootic."

"Oh, Henry! three dollars' worth of bulbs at a meal! It is as extravagant for us as Cleopatra's pearl-drinking was for her."

"Never mind; it can't be helped now, and we'll have to make it up in something else. Here's a V to get some more;" and Henry went away, still laughing.

"Do you use many flowers on your table?" asked Mrs. Murray Hill of a southern visitor. "Well, yes," was the reply;

"we have wheat and rye bread for breakfast, but the old man sticks to corn dodgers."

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